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Letter dated 26 June 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the ninth monthly report of the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) (see annex). The present letter provides information requested in that resolution on the activities of the United Nations from 23 May to 23 June 2014 related to the implementation of the resolution.

Introduction

On 23 June 2014, the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic confirmed that all declared chemical weapons materials of the Syrian Arab Republic had been removed from Syrian territory or, in the case of isopropanol, destroyed in the country. The achievement of this critical milestone followed the movement by the Syrian Arab Republic on 22 and 23 June of the remaining chemical materials, stored at one site, to the port of Latakia, where they were loaded onto a cargo vessel for onward transportation and destruction.

With the completion of the removal of declared chemical weapons materials and progress made during previous reporting periods, the following remains for the full elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic: the destruction of the chemicals at sea and at land-based facilities; the destruction of structures at 12 production facilities pending agreement on the modalities of destruction by the OPCW Executive Council; the destruction of one item of loading equipment at one production facility; the destruction of one building located at a production facility currently under the control of armed opposition groups; and the conclusion of ongoing consultations regarding any possible remaining discrepancies in the original declaration submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic.

Activities towards the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic

On 4 June 2014, two containers with chemical weapons materials on board the Norwegian cargo ship *Taiko* were returned to the port of Latakia for repackaging of their content. The operation was necessitated by the extended time during which the containers had been on board the vessel. It was conducted by Syrian technical experts and supported by the Joint Mission. The Joint Mission also verified the

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reloading of all materials concerned on the vessel at the end of the operation the same day.

The *Taiko* proceeded to Finland and the United States of America on 8 June to deliver priority 2 chemical materials to designated commercial facilities for their destruction. The process of destruction has begun at the identified commercial facility in Finland and is expected to commence soon in the United States.

On 14 June, the Joint Mission undertook an analysis of the content of two cylinders reportedly seized by the armed forces of the Syrian Arab Republic in August 2013 in an area reportedly under the control of armed opposition groups. The Joint Mission confirmed that these contained sarin. The Joint Mission engaged with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on the modalities for destruction of the cylinders and their contents in accordance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

At its meeting of 17 June, the Executive Council requested the Syrian Arab Republic to initiate, as appropriate, any preparatory work necessary for the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons production facilities, in anticipation of a final decision on the methods of destruction. The Executive Council requested the Director General to start preparatory work for the conclusion of a contract for the provision of expertise and equipment, as appropriate. The Executive Council also requested the Director General to approach the United Nations for the provision, to the extent possible, of any further equipment and logistical support identified as needed for assisting the Syrian Arab Republic in the destruction of its chemical weapons production facilities, which remains the ultimate responsibility of the Syrian Arab Republic.

On 20 June, following the Executive Council meeting, the Director General and I wrote a joint letter to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to urge it to remove the remaining chemical weapons materials as soon as possible.

On 23 June, the Syrian Arab Republic completed the removal of its final consignment of chemical weapons materials from the remaining storage site close to Damascus. The Syrian Arab Republic transported the chemical weapons precursors to a temporary staging area near Damascus where the Joint Mission conducted a full inventory, including sampling of the majority of materials, before overseeing packing to ensure compliance with international standards. The Joint Mission then conducted additional physical verification of the container seals and screened them for any leakage before they were loaded on to the Danish cargo ship *Ark Futura* for onward transportation to designated destruction facilities.

The security environment in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to pose significant challenges for the work of the Joint Mission. While the primary responsibility for the safety and security of the Joint Mission's personnel, assets and operations rests with the Syrian Arab Republic, the Joint Mission continued to implement robust security mitigation measures. In keeping with operational requirements, the Joint Mission adjusted its presence inside the Syrian Arab Republic. It maintained its core operations and retained the required flexibility to respond quickly to exigencies as they arose.

The Joint Mission also initiated a lessons-learned exercise as part of its broader transition process. Over the coming period, discussions will continue

between the Joint Mission and OPCW with a view to establishing appropriate successor arrangements to enable the OPCW technical secretariat to continue any residual in-country verification and other activities that may be required.

Conclusion

The completion of the removal of declared chemical weapons materials from Syrian territory during the reporting period represents a key milestone and a significant achievement towards the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic.

This was made possible through the international determination and support originating in the framework agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States for the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons, followed by the relevant decisions of the Executive Council and the adoption of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). It was also made possible by the commitment and constructive cooperation demonstrated by the Syrian Arab Republic towards fulfilling its obligations in this regard.

It is now essential that every effort be made to achieve the full elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic at the very earliest opportunity, including the destruction of remaining production facilities and the resolution of any possible remaining technical discrepancies in the original declaration.

I remain concerned about allegations regarding the use of toxic chemicals in the Syrian conflict and strongly condemn any such use by any party to the conflict. I also strongly condemn the attack on the fact-finding mission that was deployed by the technical secretariat of the Organization to investigate these allegations. Perpetrators of such acts must be brought to justice.

I would like to reiterate my appreciation to all Member States that have provided significant funds and in-kind contributions towards the elimination programme and that continue to do so. I thank in particular Member States that contribute to the maritime component of operations at a significant cost and over an extended period, as they now proceed to the final phase of the operation.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Special Coordinator, Sigrid Kaag, and all staff of the Joint Mission for their courageous efforts to ensure full implementation of mandated tasks.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex urgently to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

Annex

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme", prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of Executive Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Security Council (see enclosure). My report covers the period from 23 May 2014 to 23 June 2014 and also covers the reporting requirements of Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013.

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Üzümcü**
Director General of the Organization for
the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Enclosure

Note by the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") reports to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General. This is the ninth such monthly report.

2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities" (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of this decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation "in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1".

3. This report is therefore submitted in accordance with both above-mentioned Council decisions and includes information relevant to their implementation during the period from 23 May to 23 June 2014.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of decisions EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

4. In accordance with subparagraph 1(c) of EC-M-33/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic is required to complete the elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment in the first half of 2014. Previous reports have described the progress made by the Syrian Arab Republic against intermediate completion dates established under paragraphs 2 and 3 of EC-M-34/DEC.1 for the removal and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons outside its territory. Progress achieved within the current reporting period by the Syrian Arab Republic in fulfilling its obligations is described below:

(a) On 22 and 23 June 2014, the final shipments of chemicals identified for removal from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic took place. A total of 18 containers were removed from one remaining chemical weapons storage facility (CWSF) to which access had not been possible for several months, as reported by the Syrian Arab Republic. Therefore, and in accordance with paragraph 21 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the Director General can confirm to the Council that 100% of the declared Priority 1 and 2 chemicals have been removed from the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, as previously reported, 100% of the declared isopropanol has been verified as destroyed on Syrian territory;

(b) As reported previously, pursuant to subparagraph 2(b) of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the target date for the destruction of all of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) was not later than 15 March 2014. Activities relating to the destruction of aircraft hangars and underground structures at 12 of the

CWPFs are awaiting a decision by the Council on the combined plans for destruction and verification. An additional technical meeting between the Secretariat and representatives of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was conducted in Beirut from 9 to 11 June 2014. The meeting focused on issues pertaining to the five CWPFs (underground structures), and Secretariat officials assisted the Syrian technical experts in drafting a document in response to queries relating to the destruction plan. The document was finalised and submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic to the Secretariat on 11 June 2014 in Beirut. During the meeting, the Secretariat also assisted the technical experts in drafting a supplement to the detailed destruction plan for seven CWPFs (aircraft hangars), which had been submitted to the Secretariat in March 2014, and requested the Syrian representatives to finalise the letter including all relevant inputs. The Syrian Arab Republic submitted the letter to the Secretariat on 16 June 2014, and the Secretariat is currently assessing its contents. The Council encouraged all Parties concerned to continue their consultations with a view to arriving at an agreement on the combined plans for destruction and verification for the 12 CWPFs, and requested that the Syrian Arab Republic initiate, as appropriate, any preparatory work necessary for the destruction of the CWPFs;

(c) Pursuant to paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic is required to submit a monthly report to the Council regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its chemical weapons and CWPFs. The seventh such report was submitted to the Secretariat on 16 June 2014 and made available to the Council (EC-76/P/NAT.1, dated 16 June 2014); and

(d) In accordance with subparagraph 1(e) of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and paragraph 7 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the Syrian Arab Republic shall cooperate fully with all aspects of the implementation of the decision and the resolution. The Syrian authorities have continued to extend the necessary cooperation to the OPCW-UN Joint Mission (hereinafter "the Joint Mission") in the conduct of its activities during the reporting period.

Activities carried out by the secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

5. Effective cooperation with the United Nations in the context of the Joint Mission has continued with close coordination between the two organisations and between the offices in The Hague, New York, Damascus, and Cyprus. As at the cut-off date of this report, eight OPCW staff members were deployed as part of the Joint Mission in Damascus, and one logistics officer in Beirut.

6. The Director-General and the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission, Ms Sigrid Kaag, have maintained regular contact. Ms Kaag visited The Hague on 17 June 2014 to brief the Council at its Forty-Second Meeting.

7. The Director-General has continued to meet with senior representatives of the States Parties offering to host a destruction facility or otherwise providing assistance with transport or destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, and to communicate regularly with senior officials from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. As requested by the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (paragraph 7.12 of EC-75/2, dated 7 March 2014), the Secretariat has continued to provide weekly information briefings to States Parties in The Hague on behalf of the Director-General.

8. As at the cut-off date of this report, all chemicals identified for removal from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic had been transported to Latakia and loaded onto cargo ships for subsequent transportation and eventual destruction. At the staging area near Damascus, OPCW personnel together with the Joint Mission verified the contents of the containers from the final CWSF. The packaging was also checked for compliance with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code by appropriately trained United Nations staff. At Latakia, the contents of the containers were again verified before being loaded onto the Danish cargo ship, Ark Futura.

9. From 11 to 14 June, OPCW experts conducted an inspection of two items declared by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic as abandoned chemical weapons. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had previously informed the Secretariat that the items did not belong to it. Samples were taken from the items and their subsequent analysis identified the agent contained in them as Sarin. The Secretariat is now assisting the Syrian authorities in preparing a destruction plan for the two items; the plan will be submitted to the Council once it is finalised.

10. The Secretariat has continued to meet with the Syrian authorities as part of continuing efforts to streamline and complete the data regarding the initial declaration submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic in October 2013, and subsequent amendments. A team of technical experts from the Secretariat deployed to Damascus for a second mission from 21 to 28 May 2014 in order to engage in consultations with the Syrian National Authority on any outstanding issues and to seek clarifications with regard to its Article III declaration. A briefing on the visit was provided to the Council at its Forty-Second Meeting. The Syrian National Authority agreed to submit a national paper providing a historical overview of its chemical weapons programme. Consultations on this issue will continue.

11. In accordance with paragraph 2 of EC-M-42/DEC.3, and without prejudice to the responsibility of the Syrian Arab Republic for the destruction of its CWPFs, the Director-General has initiated preparatory work to conclude a contract, without calling for tenders, quotations, or proposals, with a commercial company for the provision of expertise and equipment, as appropriate, for the destruction of the Syrian CWPFs. In accordance with paragraph 3 of EC-M-42/DEC.3, the Director-General has requested the United Nations to provide, to the extent possible, any further equipment and logistical support identified as necessary for assisting the Syrian Arab Republic in the destruction of its CWPFs. The Director-General wrote to the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission in this regard on 20 June 2014.

12. As reported previously, the Secretariat, consistent with paragraph 13 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, has developed a draft facility agreement for Syrian CWSFs and submitted the draft to the Syrian authorities for their comments, which are still pending.

13. OPCW personnel have carried out pre-operational visits to commercial facilities selected pursuant to paragraph 24 of EC-M-34/DEC.1 or sponsored by States Parties pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision EC-M-36/DEC.2, dated 17 December 2013. These facilities are located in Finland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. A pre-operational visit will also take place at the GEKA facility in Germany which, through an in-kind contribution from the Government of Germany, will destroy the effluent from the neutralisation of the sulfur mustard on board the United States vessel MV Cape Ray.

14. During the period under review, the facility agreement negotiated between the Secretariat and representatives of the United States of America specifying the arrangements governing on-site inspections at Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC was approved by the Council at its Forty-Second Meeting (EC-M-42/DEC.2, dated 17 June 2014). The text of the arrangement that will govern verification activities to be conducted by OPCW inspection teams at the port of disembarkation in Port Arthur, Texas, to be entered into between the OPCW and the United States of America, has also been made available to delegations.

15. On 19 June 2014, the Secretariat facilitated a telephone conference between experts from the Secretariat and representatives of civil society, in particular from the Mediterranean region. The conference call allowed for an exchange of views on the environmental aspects of the removal and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, and also enabled the participants to receive more information about the operations and to pose questions to the experts from the Secretariat.

Fact-finding mission

16. As previously reported, in early May 2014 the Director-General dispatched an OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) to the Syrian Arab Republic to establish the facts surrounding allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, reportedly chlorine, for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic. On 27 May 2014, as the team was travelling for a site visit, its convoy came under attack, resulting in a denial of access to the site. A summary report of the work of the FFM covering the period from 3 to 31 May 2014 has been circulated (S/1191/2014, dated 16 June 2014). The report concludes that that available information, inter alia, "lends credence to the view that toxic chemicals, most likely pulmonary irritating agents such as chlorine, have been used in a systematic manner in a number of attacks". The Director-General has decided that the work of the FFM will continue.

Supplementary resources

17. As reported in the previous monthly reports, several States Parties are providing assistance and resources for the purposes of the transportation, removal, and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons.

18. On 8 June 2014, the Norwegian cargo ship Taiko left the area of operations. The ship, carrying Priority 2 chemicals, departed for Finland and the United States of America to deliver chemicals for disposal in those countries. This was in accordance with the schedule of the Taiko, which was notified to the OPCW at an earlier stage. The Taiko arrived at the port of Hamina Kotka in Finland on 21 June 2014 and offloaded the chemicals destined for destruction at the Ekokem Riihimäki waste treatment and disposal facility. A team of OPCW inspectors was present during the offloading at the port to verify the receipt and arrangements for transportation of chemicals and related materials to the facility, and to provide assurance against diversion. The Taiko is expected to arrive at Port Arthur, Texas, United States of America, in early July to offload the remaining chemicals. Subsequent monthly reports will contain information on the activities relating to the destruction of the chemicals and related materials at commercial facilities in accordance with paragraph 4 of decision EC-M-38/DEC.1, dated 30 January 2014.

19. The Danish cargo ship Ark Futura took on board the remaining 8% of chemicals on 22 and 23 June 2014 for transportation to their destination. The Ark

Futura will then sail to Gioia Tauro in Italy to offload certain Priority 1 chemicals to the United States vessel MV Cape Ray for neutralisation at sea, after which it will take the remaining Priority 1 chemicals to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for disposal.

20. As at the cut-off date of this report, the balance in the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons stood at EUR 50.3 million, with the recent receipt of a contribution of EUR 2 million from Italy. Contributions have been received from Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, the European Union, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This includes the contributions that were originally made to the first OPCW Trust Fund for Syria and which have, at the request of the donor, subsequently been transferred, in part or in whole, to the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons.

Conclusion

21. As requested by the Council at its Forty-Second Meeting (EC-M-42/DEC.1, dated 17 June 2014), the Secretariat is preparing, for submission to the Seventy-Sixth Session of the Council, an overall report on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. The report will include information on whether or not the elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment was completed in the first half of 2014 and, as appropriate, which requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the relevant decisions of the Council remain to be implemented by the Syrian Arab Republic. The report will also provide the Council with any recommendations the Director-General deems appropriate for its consideration.

22. The removal from the Syrian Arab Republic of all declared chemicals identified for destruction outside its territory marks a major milestone in the mission to eliminate its chemical weapons programme. While the OPCW's work in the Syrian Arab Republic will continue, what has been achieved thus far is highly significant and is the result of close international cooperation and the assistance of States Parties, as well as cooperation between the OPCW and the United Nations. It is hoped that certain aspects of the Syrian Arab Republic's declaration will soon be clarified and that the destruction of the 12 remaining CWPFs can commence. Furthermore, the FFM requires the cooperation of all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic in order to complete its work.